

CLAIMS

1. A label holder for a test tube for medical analyses, particularly for analyzing the erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR), said test tube (1) being constituted by a first cylindrical portion (2) that has a mouth closed by a stopper (5) made of a material that can be pierced by a collection needle (27) and by a second cylindrical portion (3) that has a smaller diameter than said first portion and is connected thereto by a third connecting portion (4), said stopper (5) being provided with a collar (6) that rests on said mouth, characterized in that it comprises a tubular element (14) that is guided on said test tube and is provided with retention means (18, 20, 21) for movably retaining said tubular element (14) in order to allow it to slide between a position in which it substantially overlaps said test tube (1) to allow the insertion of said collection needle through said stopper (5) and a position for exposing said test tube.

2. The label holder according to claim 1, characterized in that said tubular element (14) comprises a cylindrical part (15) that is guided on said first portion (2) and ends with a conically tapering part (16) that is guided on said second portion (3), said cylindrical part (15) being provided with said retention means (18, 20, 21) that are adapted to retain said tubular element (14) in a position that substantially overlaps said test tube (1) and to allow the insertion of said collection needle (25) through said stopper (5), position retaining means (16) being further provided for retaining said tubular element (14) in the position in which said second portion (3) of the test tube (1) is exposed.

3. The label holder according to claim 2, characterized by a cap (8) that is superimposed on said stopper and comprises a flange element (10) and an annular lip (12) that protrude inside said cap and form a seat (13) for accommodating said collar (6).

4. The label holder according to claim 2, characterized in that said retention means comprise a disk (18) that is fixed to the end of said

cylindrical part (15) and at least two elastic tabs (20, 21), which are formed in said part and are provided with internal protrusions that are adapted to engage on said cap (8).

- 5        5. The label holder according to claim 2, characterized in that said position retaining means for retaining said tubular element (14) in the position for exposing said test tube (1) are constituted by a conically tapering part (16) of said tubular element (14) whose end is engaged with friction on said cylindrical portion (3) of said test tube (1) and is adapted to abut against said intermediate portion (4) of said test tube.
- 10        6. The label holder according to claim 4, characterized in that said disk (18) is peripherally recessed in an internal slot of said cylindrical portion (15).